of Post has taken up of project of transmitting money order through satellite channel. The pilot project for this purpose involved setting up VSAT (Very Small Aperture Terminal) along with other computer peripherals in six locations namely; Delhi Patna, Lucknow, Madras, Bangalore and Shimla. With the successful implementation of pilot project, the network of VSAT stations is now being expanded with about 20 more VSAT stations during the current year. A total of 75 VSAT stations will be set up in the country by the end of 8th plan period. Each VSAT station will provide the benefit of speedy transmission and delivery of money order through usual systems for post offices located within a radius of about 100 Km. around it.

(c) This system is not yet operational in Andhra Pradesh.

Privatisation of sale of postal articles

19. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to privatise sale of postal articles in rural areas;

(b) if so the details of the proposal; and

(c) what concrete steps have been taken to involve unemployed youth in rural areas to sell and participate in sales of postal articles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) It is proposed to introduce a scheme under which basic postal facilities (including sale of Postages stamps and postal stationery) shall be provided in rural areas through the village Panchayats under the supervision of M.P.

Deterioration in Speed Post Services in Andhra Pradesh

20. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to improve the Speed Post Services;

(b) whether it is a fact that Speed Post Service has deteriorated in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what steps are proposed to improve Speed Post Service in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Improvement of Speed Post Services is an ongoing process.

(b) No, Sir. There has been an increase of 25 per cent in the traffic of Speed Post in 1994 in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Further improvement in Speed Post Service includes gradual expansion of network and computerisation of operations.

Postal services in Andhra Pradesh

21. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are increasing postal strvices in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a proposal to appoint more Branch Post Masters; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) There is a target of opening of two extra departmental branch post offices in rural areas of Andhra Pradesh during the current year 1994-95. Additional hands to the extent justified are sanctioned in such cases.

Post Office Monthly Schemes for unemployed youths

22. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the Post Office Monthly Income Scheme;

(b) whether there is any proposal to involve unemployed youth in such schemes and their propagation; and

(c) if so, in what way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Under the Post Office Monthly Income Scheme, an individual may open more than one a/c. In an account there shall be only one deposit of Rs. six thousand or multiples thereof not exceeding Rs. two lakhs four thousand in case of single account and Rupees four lakhs eight thousand in case of joint account. Interest on deposit is 13 per cent per annum payable monthly alongwith bonus equal to 10 per cent of deposit on maturity. Facility of prematurti withdrawal, nomination and Tax concession under Section 80L of Income Tax Act is also available. Maturity period of the scheme is six years from the date of opening. In case of death of depositor before maturity, a/c may be closed and deposit refunded with interest to the nominee or the legal heir.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to involve unemployed youths. However, Agents are appointed for mobilising deposits under the scheme and commission is paid @ 1 per cent of deposits secured through them.

Modernisation of Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat

23. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal to use ultra modern fibre for linking some telecom exchanges in Surat, Bharuch, Panch-Mahal and Vadodara Districts in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details of exchanges which were to have modern wiring system;

(c) whether it is a fact that even rural and tribal areas in these Districts with STD facilities/services are not getting optimum service; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to modernise the whole telecom. system in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Following Telephone Exchanges (District-wise) have already been connected by reliable Transmission media (Coaxial, Optical Fibre Cable, and UHF/ Microwave Systems.

Name of District	Name of Exchange	Type of media
Godhra (Panch Mahal) .	Godhra	Optical Fibre
	Derol	,,
	Kalol (Derol)	,,
	Dahod	,,
	Lunawada	UHF
	Shahera	,,
	Timba Road	,,
Bharuch . .	Bharuch	Microwave
	Ankleshwar	Optical Fibre